

C. 4412 (1) MAIDSTONE

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.



ANNUAL REPORT

for

1934

on the

HEALTH OF MAIDSTONE

by the

Medical Officer of Health.

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C.,
M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Medical Officer to the Education Authority for the
Borough of Maidstone.

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BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1934.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Maidstone.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough of Maidstone for the year 1934.

The health of the Borough has been good during the year, though I have to record an outbreak of diphtheria which has exceeded in severity any such visitation for some years. The death-rate is low and the infantile death-rate of 38.4, though higher than that recorded last year, is gratifyingly low and may be taken as an index of the healthy conditions prevailing in the Town.

There has been further progress in housing, both in the provision of new dwellings and in the raising of the standard of housing in the Borough by the improvement or demolishing of unfit property.

I regret to report an increase in the maternal mortality recorded in the Borough, the death rate from puerperal causes being higher than has occurred for a long period, and I would urge that there should be no slackening of our efforts to remedy this state of affairs and no delay in the provision of the maternity hospital accommodation which is needed.

I should like again to offer to the Corporation, to the Committees which are concerned with Public Health matters and to my colleagues of the Corporation Staff, my sincere thanks for the help and encouragement I have received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN.

MAIDSTONE,

4th June, 1935.

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1934-1935.

Chairman.

Councillor F. R. CONNOR, J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Councillor J. A. GIBB, M.D.

Members.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman H. G. TYRWHITT-DRAKE, J.P.)

Alderman W. DAY, J.P.

„ A. T. EPPS, J.P.

„ W. H. MARTIN, J.P.

Councillor J. HILLIER FRENCH, J.P. Councillor S. J. LYLE.

„ W. DAY.

„ F. J. SHRUBSOLE.

„ T. HUNTER.

„ P. WAKEFIELD.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE, 1934-1935.

Chairman.

Councillor F. R. CONNOR, J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Councillor J. A. GIBB, M.D.

Members.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman H. G. TYRWHITT-DRAKE, J.P.)

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„ A. T. EPPS, J.P.

„ W. H. MARTIN, J.P.

Councillor J. HILLIER FRENCH, J.P. Councillor P. WAKEFIELD.

„ W. DAY.

Mrs. FOSTER CLARK.

„ T. HUNTER.

Mrs. B. W. HAYNES.

„ S. J. LYLE.

Miss MARJORIE HAYNES

„ F. J. SHRUBSOLE.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.
P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.
C. PYE OLIVER, Junr., B.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.),
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Resigned 31/12/34).

Chief Sanitary Inspector.
W. A. N. Baker, M.C., A.R.S.I.,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.
G. S. Adams, A.R.S.I., Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Health Visitors.
Miss M. E. Heckles—Certificate of the Central Midwives Board ; Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors ; Children's Certificate, State Registration for General Part of Regulations. (Resigned 18/7/34).

Miss E. M. Surridge—Certificate of the Central Midwives Board ; Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors ; State Registration Certificate, Fever Training ; (Resigned 28/11/34).

Miss A. Snoddon—State Registration Certificate, General Nursing ; State Registration Certificate, Sick Children's Nursing ; Certificate of the Central Midwives Board ; Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors : (Appointed 22/8/34.)

Miss E. M. Reid—Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

Public Analyst.
E. M. Hawkins, Canterbury, F.I.C., F.C.S.

Veterinary Officer.
C. Crowhurst, M.R.C.V.S.

Matron of Sanatorium.
Miss B. Lake (Resigned 19/9/34).
Miss L. Bennett (Appointed 21/10/34).

Clerks.
H. H. Moule.
S. V. Carr.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA.—5,972 acres.

POPULATION :—Census 1921—37,448.

„ 1931—42,259.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 1934—46,320.

ESTIMATED FOR BIRTH AND DEATH RATES, 45,428.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1933) ACCORDING TO RATE
BOOKS, 11,667.

RATEABLE VALUE—⁴¹³⁸¹⁸~~£412,108~~.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE—¹⁶²⁰~~£1,717~~.

Social Conditions. Maidstone retains its character as an example of the prosperous English County Town, partly industrial and partly the active centre of a wide and flourishing agricultural community. Of recent years, Maidstone has shared in the drift of industry towards the South and particularly to the Home Counties, while there has also been a tendency for the Medway valley, and especially Maidstone, to become a residential area for a number of those whose occupations are in London, and the improvements in rail, road and air transport will accelerate the growth of this dormitory population, but the County Town of Kent still elings to its character and status as the County centre. Brewing, engineering works and paper mills, with the manufacture of food products remain the chief industries and while there has been some distress, the past year has dealt more kindly with Maidstone than with some parts of the country. Unemployment has been a serious problem here as elsewhere, but the borough has not suffered to the extent found in other counties or in other parts of Kent. In this connection it is worth noting that the number of school children recorded at medical inspection as being “below normal” in nutrition, only amounted to 4·6% of the total and this figure is an improvement on that recorded in 1933.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	606	294	312
Illegitimate	19	9	10
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...			13·8

STILLBIRTHS.	29	18	11
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			44·3

DEATHS	530	255	275
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...			10·7

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis.....	2	3·06
No. 30 other puerperal causes	2	3·06
Total	4	6·11

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age;—

All Infants per 1,000 live births.....	38·4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	39·6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages).....	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These have been described in previous reports, the service available in the Borough at the Kent County Laboratory has been entirely satisfactory and Maidstone is fortunate in having so complete and efficient a laboratory so close at hand.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These have been described in previous reports and the general plan remains unaltered. Ambulance transport for accidents, sickness and maternity cases is provided by the Maidstone Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, which is well equipped and most efficient. Infectious cases are transported to the Borough Isolation Hospital in the motor ambulance belonging to the Corporation. During 1934, a new ambulance was provided to replace the old vehicle which had given many years of service and was beyond repair. The new vehicle which consists of a Ford chassis, carrying a special ambulance body built by Messrs. Lomas, has proved very satisfactory.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

These arrangements remain as outlined in previous reports and have continued to work satisfactorily. The Corporation, as in previous years, have allowed free transport on the Corporation bus routes for the district nurses attached to the West Kent Hospital.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. No additional Centre was opened during the year, but, as foreshadowed in last year's report, the Voluntary Child Welfare Association which had conducted the Centres in the Borough for many years decided that it was impossible to continue the work on a voluntary basis and the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the Corporation assumed direct responsibility with, I am glad and thankful to say, the continued assistance of the voluntary helpers, for whose assistance in the conduct of the centres, I am most grateful.

At the close of 1934, following upon the resignation of Dr. C. Pye Oliver, Junior, the duties of the part-time Deputy M.O.H. and the part-time M. & C.W. Medical Officer were combined to allow of the appointment of a whole-time Assistant M.O.H. and S.M.O., who was to take up duty at the beginning of 1935.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

The Minor Ailment Clinics, for the West Borough area, at 13, Tonbridge Road, for the South Borough district at South Borough School and for the North end of the town at Wheeler Street, have continued to serve good purpose. The last-named clinic will be transferred to the new school in the North Ward, when this is opened and the new premises are designed to include a dental clinic, to serve the group of schools in that part of the town. The dental clinics have been continued on the lines described in earlier reports and details of the work are to be found in the report of the school medical service, while the orthopaedic and orthoptic clinics, held at the local hospitals are of great value.

The report of the School Medical Service, giving particulars of the work done at these clinics, has already been published and details of the Infant Welfare work for the year are set out below.

INFANT WELFARE FIGURES FOR 1934.

No. of first visits paid to the homes of Infants	...	...	552
„ return „ „	...	...	1856
„ return „ „ Children	...	...	4588
„ first visits paid to Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	121
„ return „ „	...	...	176
„ visits <i>re</i> removal, death of child, stillbirth, etc.	...	...	155

INFANT WELFARE FIGURES (continued).

Attendances of Mothers at Old Palace	...	...	...	3635
" Infants "	..	..	...	2567
" Children "	...	...	...	2268
" Mothers at Barming	...	...	...	1071
" Infants "	...	...	...	513
" Children "	...	...	...	635
" Mothers at Mangravet	...	..	...	806
" Infants "	..	...	...	317
" Children "	...	...	...	535
Medical Inspections at Old Palace	...	...	...	100
" Barming	...	...	...	26
" Mangravet	...	...	...	23
Ante-Natal Clinics held	...	...	...	51
Individual Mothers attending	...	...	..	157
TOTAL ATTENDANCES	...	...	...	459
Number of Health Talks given at Old Palace	...	...	...	14
" " Barming	...	...	...	10
" " Mangravet	...	...	...	8
Infants and Children seen by Doctor at Old Palace	...	...	...	2451
" " Barming	...	...	...	648
" " Mangravet	...	...	...	581
Average Attendance of Infants and Children at Old Palace	46	94		
" Number seen by Doctor at Old Palace	...	...	...	23.80
" Attendance of Infants and Children at Barming	...	...	...	22.96
" Number seen by Doctor at Barming	...	..	...	18.96
" Attendance of Infants and Children at Mangravet	...	...	...	17.76
" Number seen by Doctor at Mangravet	...	...	...	12.10
Individual Mothers attending at Old Palace	...	...	...	362
" Infants " "	...	...	...	253
" Children " "	...	...	...	236
" Mothers " Barming	...	..	...	94
" Infants " "	...	...	...	65
" Children " "	...	...	...	79
" Mothers " Mangravet	...	...	...	82
" Infants " "	...	...	...	42
" Children " "	...	...	...	69
Pre-School Clinic Attendances (3-5 years of age)	...	...	...	134
Individual Children	...	...	...	78
Average Attendance	...	..	...	12.17
Cooking Classes held	...	...	...	13
Attendance of Mothers	...	...	...	145
Individual Mothers	...	...	...	19
Sewing Classes held	..	...	...	14
Attendance of Mothers	...	...	...	116
Individual Mothers...	...	...	...	14

HOSPITALS.

In previous reports, full details of the general and special hospitals in the district have been given and during 1934, full use of these institutions and the accommodation available was made. The hospital accommodation actually maintained or provided by the Local Authority consists of the Borough Isolation Hospital, for infectious diseases and the Maternity Ward at the West Kent General Hospital. The former is a somewhat antiquated building, having been in use for over 50 years and is not entirely satisfactory or sufficient. Various alterations and improvements have been made and the equipment has been brought more into accord with requirements, but it will be necessary to undertake considerable expenditure, to provide for an increase in the number of beds, the provision of cubicle wards, the enlargement of the nurses' quarters and the administrative block, and the re-construction of the laundry, before this hospital can be regarded as satisfactory and sufficient for the present and future needs of the Borough.

The Maternity Ward at the West Kent General Hospital, for which the Corporation have agreed to provide the capital cost and to pay maintenance, does not give sufficient beds to meet more than a portion of the applications for admission. Later in this report, I give the report on maternal mortality in the Borough which was made to the Corporation in December, 1934. More beds and improved accommodation for maternity cases are needed and it is hoped that the provision of these will not be delayed.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

The number of midwives practising in the Borough is eleven, and these are under the supervision of the County Medical Officer. They are not employed or subsidised by the Local Authority. I reproduce below the report, which, following upon Circular 1433 of the Ministry of Health on the subject of maternal mortality, was rendered to the Corporation.

Maternal Mortality.

"Referring to Circular 1167 of the Ministry of Health together with Memorandum 156/M.C.W., dated 11th December, 1930, and Circular 1433, dated 10th October, 1934, on the subject of Maternal Mortality, I should wish to draw the attention of the Council to the following points :—

The accompanying Table, which sets out the figures of maternal deaths in the Borough of Maidstone for the past five years, shows an average maternal mortality for the five-year period, of 1.84 per 1,000 births. While this is below the total mortality

rate for England and Wales, and Maidstone is not one of the areas commented upon in Circular 1433, yet the results of the investigations of the Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality indicate that existing maternal death rates could probably be reduced by half, and this contention is supported by the results secured in such places as the district served by the Plaistow Maternity Hospital, where, among 87,749 cases, in a period of 20 years, the maternal mortality rate was 0·77 per 1,000 births.

Year.	No. of Births.	Maternal deaths.	Maternal death rate.
1929	647	—	—
1930	680	2	2·94
1931	668	—	—
1932	665	2	3·01
1933	603	2	3·32
	<hr/> 3,265	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 1·84

It is necessary, therefore, to consider how far the present arrangements for the prevention of maternal mortality are adequate and what further developments are required.

(1) SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES. The inspection and supervision of the midwives practising in the Borough is a duty which is entrusted to the County Council. The number of midwives practising in the Borough is adequate to the needs of the population, but I consider that it would be a great advantage if the Borough Council, which is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, were also the supervising authority for midwives and nursing homes.

(2) ANTE-NATAL CENTRE. This is already functioning in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare scheme and ante-natal clinics are held at the Old Palace. I am hopeful that with the appointment of a whole-time Deputy Medical Officer of Health who has had special experience in ante and post-natal maternity work and who will be largely engaged in this branch of public health, the scope and usefulness of the ante-natal centre will be increased. In particular, I hope that the assistance of the Medical Officer at the centre will be sought more largely by the doctors and midwives in the Borough, who have the care of the mothers during pregnancy and at their confinements.

Also, I hope that it will be possible to further the educational part of the ante-natal work and to advise and instruct the women in the way of health for themselves and the infants, during the period of pregnancy. The services of the Medical Officer will also be available, as a Consultant, in cases of puerperal fever, difficult labour or complications during and after confinement.

(3) HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION. There can be no question that the present provision of hospital beds is quite inadequate. For confinement cases, there are two beds available in the maternity ward of the West Kent General Hospital. These beds are booked fully long beforehand and are generally used by those patients whose home conditions are unsuitable for their confinement. Beds for emergencies and for complicated cases are not available under the Borough scheme, though the hospital provides accommodation at times for urgent cases. Further beds are required :—

- (a) For confinement cases from homes where the labour cannot be conducted without risk, or where the home accommodation is insufficient.
- (b) For complicated cases, either from complications of labour and the puerperium or from abnormal ante-natal conditions or intercurrent diseases.
- (c) Accommodation for the isolation and treatment of cases of puerperal pyrexia or puerperal fever.

The report of the Maternal Mortality Committee stresses the desirability of such a provision of beds being made in connection with the local General Hospital, where practicable. In the provision of the necessary beds, the main difficulty is one of finance. The present maternity ward at the West Kent General Hospital, and the financial arrangement under which it was built, make a heavy financial burden on the Council and the cost of the building of the ward and the maintenance of the patients is such that an increase of beds at the same rate and conditions could not be thought of.

(4) EDUCATION. In whatsoever scheme is adopted for the care of the mothers and the reduction of maternal mortality, it is necessary to make sure that the facilities available are known among the community and to induce the women to take advantage of them. To this end, further educational work among the women is required and in this connection, the medical staff of the Corporation and the Health Visitors have an important share, but the assistance of the voluntary bodies, guilds and associations working among women in the Borough and in particular, of the voluntary association of helpers in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres is essential and I sincerely hope that their valued aid will be continued."

12th December, 1934.

For the year 1934, the total number of births was 654 and the deaths from puerperal causes were 4. This gives a maternal death rate, per 1000 births, of 6.11, which is an increase over the rate recorded during the past five years and which cannot be looked upon as anything but deplorable. The reduction of this rate of maternal mortality is an end toward which no effort should be spared and I trust that there will be no avoidable delay in providing the increase in maternity hospital accommodation, which is asked for.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS OR CHILDREN.

There has been no alteration, in the past year, in the institutional provision for mothers and children. The expansion of the "Pre-school" clinic will be of assistance in the care of the toddlers and the prevention of disabilities, but the large and increasing number of mothers in the Borough, who have to go to work and are forced to arrange for their children to be looked after, makes the provision of a day nursery or a nursery school very much to be desired.

HEALTH VISITORS.

The number of nurses employed on visiting work by the Corporation is four and for some years I have been urging that the duties of these nurses should be arranged to give each nurse a combination of duties for an allotted area. In July, 1934, the report which I attach below was made to the Health, Maternity and Child Welfare and the Education Committees and the suggestions made therein were adopted. The division of the town into areas has had to undergo slight alteration, in order to equalise the amount of work in each area, but I am glad to say that the alterations have worked smoothly. This division of the Borough for Health Visiting corresponds to the division of the area for the re-organised educational scheme and the result has been a saving of overlapping and an increased interest and variety in the work for the Visitors employed.

Proposed re-arrangement of the Duties of the Health Visitors and School Nurses.

"The number of Nurses employed by the Corporation in visiting duties is four, two being employed by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee as Health Visitors and two by the Education Committee as School Nurses.

Of these Nurses, two are in possession of the Health Visitors' Certificate, one is approved by the Ministry of Health as a Health Visitor, while the fourth does not hold the necessary qualifications, being a State registered Nurse, in respect of three years general training.

The method in which the work is divided amongst these Nurses at present is as follows:—The two School Nurses divide the Borough area between them, one taking the West and East ends of the town and the other the Southern part, including the Willington area. This is not an ideal division, for it means that one Nurse has care of two of the Central Schools, while the other has only one. The division of duties between the two Nurses employed on M. & C.W. work is on a most peculiar basis, arising from the fact that formerly one of these Nurses was employed by the Corporation while the other was provided by the Voluntary Association which conducted the Centres. One Visitor visits those cases where the infant has at any time attended the Centre while the other Visitor is responsible for the cases which do not appear on the register of the Centre. The result of this arrangement is that both nurses are visiting all over the town, often in the same streets and cases have occurred where both Visitors were calling at the same house, where the School Nurse also had to visit.

These arrangements it will be seen at once are productive of overlapping and cause waste of time and energy, while the coming of a series of visitors on different quests, where one should be enough, only serves to irritate the harrassed Mothers.

In order to overcome these faults in the present system, I make the following suggestions. For the purpose of M. & C.W. and School Medical work, the Borough falls naturally into three districts, North, South and West, the dividing frontiers which I would propose being formed by the rivers Medway and Len. Thus in each area there would be a Central School, and the Infants and Junior Schools grouped with it: a minor ailment clinic to correspond; for each area there is also one M. & C.W. Centre, though the Old Palace is the biggest Centre and some cases from all three areas would probably attend there. The next development of the M. & C.W. scheme will probably be a Centre in the North end of the town, which would make the areas more complete.

I propose therefore that one of the three qualified Health Visitors be allotted to each of these three areas of the town and that she be responsible for all the branches of the work,—School Medical work, M. & C.W. work and Infant Life Protection Visiting,—in the one district instead of as at present each Visitor taking one part of the work for the whole town area. Thus each Visitor will have a Central School, a group of Infants and Junior Schools, a minor ailment clinic and a M. & C.W. Centre, with the visiting arising from these, in one third of the town.

There remains the work of the dental clinics, which are at present at Tonbridge Road and South Borough School, but which will be increased in the near future by the clinic provided at the new school in the North end of the Borough. There are also the ophthalmic and orthopaedic clinics at the County Ophthalmic and the West Kent General Hospital, at which the School Nurse attends.

There is also the Pre-school clinic, for children from 3 to 5 years of age—an important part of the work which has not been well attended and which needs expansion and development. The fourth Nurse at present on the Corporation staff, not being qualified or approved as a Health Visitor, cannot be employed as such. I recommend that she remain as at present, employed by the Education Committee as a School Nurse and that she take charge of the dental and other clinics, the work at the hospitals and the pre-school clinic.

The object of this re-adjustment is to secure the most efficient and economical use of the small staff of Visitors in the Borough, and the extension of the boundaries has made this more urgently necessary. The alternative is the appointment of additional nurses, both for the Education and M. & C.W. Departments, and I put forward this plan as a means of postponing an increase of staff, at least for the present."

11th July, 1934.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Each of the Nurses employed by the Corporation as Visitors also undertake duty as Visitor under the Children Act, 1908, and is responsible for visiting the Boarded-out children in that part of the Borough of which she has care. This plan has secured an improvement in the supervision of the Boarded-out children and more efficient inspection of the foster-mothers. The details of the administration of Part I. of Children Act, 1908, are set out as follows :—

Administration of Part I. of the Children Act, 1908.

(a) Number of persons receiving children for reward on the Register at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	42
(28 actually receiving children)					
(b) Number of children on the Register:—					
(i.) at the end of the year	.....	.....	.....	.....	35
(ii.) who died during the year	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(iii.) on whom inquests were held during the year	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(c) Number of Infant Protection Visitors holding appointments under Section 2(2) at the end of the year who were:—					
(i.) Health Visitors	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
(ii.) Female, other than Health Visitors	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 School Nurse.
(iii.) Male	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(d) Number of persons (in addition to or in lieu of Visitors under (c) above) or societies authorised to visit under the proviso of section 2 (2)					
.....	—
(e) Proceedings taken during the year:—					
No. of Cases.	Section of Act under which taken.				
—	—				
(f) Number of cases in which the local authority has given a sanction during the year:—					
(i.) Under (a) of Section 3	...	...	...	...	—
(ii.) Under (b) of Section 3	...	...	...	...	—
(iii.) Under (c) of Section 3	...	...	...	...	—
(g) Number of orders obtained during the year:—					
	From a Justice.				From the Local Authority.
(i.) Under (a) of Section 5 (1)	—				
(ii.) Under (b) of Section 5 (1)	—				—
(iii.) Under (c) of Section 5 (1)	—				—

ORTHOPEDIC TREATMENT.

In Maidstone, orthopaedic cases receive treatment at the West Kent General Hospital, where this department is under the care of Mr. Alan Todd, M.S., F.R.C.S. The School Nurse attends on Fridays at the hospital, with cases referred from the School Medical Department and during 1934, the following cases have received treatment:—

Old infantile paralysis	9
Talipes	10
Knock-knee	4
Bow-legs	2
Deformities of feet	14
Tuberculosis, bones and joints	1
Sundry fractures... ..	1
Scoliosis	10
Torticollis... ..	3
Various	12
	<hr/>
	66

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

The Maidstone Waterworks Company furnishes the supply for the Borough from its various sources and during 1934 this has been quite satisfactory. Regular analyses of the water from each of the sources have been made and the detailed findings are set out later in this report, while a summary of the results is given below. All results are stated in grains per gallon.

Average results, 1934.	BOARLEY.	COSSINGTON.	FORSTAL.	EWELL.
Total Solid Residue	24.1	21.3	37.4	29.0
Chlorine	1.48	1.23	2.45	2.10
Nitrogen (Nitric)	0.39	0.13	0.24	0.44
Nitrogen (Nitrous)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ammoniacal Ammonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Iron	0.004	0.006	0.01	0.004
Oxygen absorbed ($\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 27° C.)	0.004	0.005	0.004	0.005
“ “ (4 hours at 27° C.)	0.007	0.008	0.008	0.008
Total Hardness	16.8	16.4	24.8	18.1

The system of patrolling the gathering grounds, springs and reservoirs, which was outlined in previous reports, has been continued. During the year, the sources, reservoirs and pumping stations were inspected by myself, in company with the County Medical Officer, Professor Eyre and the Company's Engineer. At each inspection, the grounds were found to be in a most satisfactory condition. The reservoirs were well protected and the pumping stations were entirely satisfactory. Improvements at the Barming reservoir have been carried out and the pump at this reservoir is now driven by electricity and the gas engine which was used formerly is now in reserve, in case of breakdown.

Regular bacteriological examinations of the water from the various sources have been made by the Company's bacteriologist and I have had further independent bacteriological analyses carried out. The results have been satisfactory and a summary will be found at the end of this report.

As reported in the Annual Report for 1933, the source of supply at the spring at Ewell has been taken into use, this water being chlorinated before distribution, for extra security. Thanks to the existence of this further source of supply, it was not found necessary to restrict the supply of water to the Borough in 1934, despite the exceptionally dry summer, when in other areas supplies had to be curtailed. Repeated examinations of this water in samples taken before the addition of the chlorine, have been entirely satisfactory and it is a matter for congratulation that this extra supply was available for the time of drought. The boring for the Company's new supply at Boxley is under way, and when this is finished there should be ample supplies for the needs of the district.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year there have been no alterations to the sewers and sewage disposal plant and no material extensions of the sewer system.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

In previous Reports, I have called attention to the amount of pollution to which the river Medway is subjected. Above the town, from villages and towns on the upper reaches, polluting effluents are discharged into the river and, at beauty spots within easy walking distance of the Borough, the river banks were placarded with notices to the effect that the water was unsafe for bathing. But while some of the pollution arises above the town, yet serious contamination of the river occurs in the portion flowing through Maidstone. In particular, factory effluents and waste products are a serious drawback to the amenities of the river. The firms concerned have again been approached in order that the pollution caused by industrial waste products might be decreased and all the firms have declared their anxiety to diminish this nuisance, but in a river in which the flow is held up by locks, it is most desirable that the pollution from trade waste and in some places, by the discharge of sewage, should be abated.

The river Len, during the hot weather in 1931, caused much trouble from a foul odour arising from decaying vegetable matter. The cleansing of this stream is badly needed and is to be carried out when the difficult problem of the responsibility for the cost has reached settlement, and again I can record that the industrial concerns on the banks of this stream have been most anxious to co-operate in obtaining an improvement.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The approximate number of premises equipped with each type of sanitary convenience is as follows:—

W.C's into drainage system	...	...	11,209
W.C's into cesspools	...	...	301
Earth closets or privy middens	...	...	104
Pail closets	...	...	96

It will be noted that the last three classes on this table show an increase over the figures last year, but this is due to the larger number of these types of convenience in the houses in the area added to the Borough at the extension of boundaries.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The details of the arrangements for the collection and disposal of refuse and for public cleansing, are the same as outlined in previous reports. The new incineration plant for the disposal of refuse has proved to be very satisfactory and should be adequate for any probable extension or growth of the area served.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

I give below the table showing the number of inspections of factories and work-shops, with the number of defects found, the action taken and the result.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES, Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories..... (Including Factory Laundries).	83	2	—
Workshops..... (Including Workshop Laundries).	99	5	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises).	8	—	—
TOTAL.....	190	7	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts : *				
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	—	—
Want of Ventilation.....	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage Floors.....	1	1	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary { Insufficient	2	2	—	—
Accommo- { Unsuitable or Defective...	—	—	—	—
dation. { Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bake- house (s. 101).....	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding Offences relating to the out- work and Offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921.)				
TOTAL.....	7	7	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901 as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations.

The following premises are controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations :—

Common Lodging Houses	7
Slaughter Houses	17
Houses let in Lodgings	4
Cowsheds	9
Dairies and Milkshops	36
By-Products Factory bone boiler, fat and tallow melter)	1

The lodging houses and the houses let in lodgings have been the source of some difficulty owing to overcrowding. The Bye-products factory mentioned above has been the subject of prolonged negotiations, but while some of the former activities are to cease, other processes of the same nature are to continue and the hope that these premises would not continue to be used for such purposes has not been realised.

Smoke Abatement.

During the year, observation has been kept at various times on factory chimneys, and, where necessary, the owners of factories have been interviewed with the object of securing a diminution in the amount of black smoke discharged, from the chimneys. I am glad to say that I have invariably found the firms willing and anxious to do everything possible to mitigate any possible nuisance.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There are four premises in the Borough where rag flock is used and inspections of these are made at regular intervals.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

I give below, in tabular form, the report furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

TABLE OF WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed	44
Bakelhouse inspections.....	64
Chimneys repaired	46
Cement sinks removed and glazed provided.....	17
Cooking Stoves renewed or repaired	24
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops inspections.....	73
Common Lodging House inspections	43
Coppers repaired	28
Drains cleansed on complaint or by flushing staff	3937
" choked and cleansed	545
" tested with smoke	51
" " water.....	24
" inspection chambers provided	15
" " airtight covers provided	18
Stoneware drains laid	769 ft.
Drains trapped from sewer and ventilated	3
Dustbins provided.....	64
Factory, workshop, workplace and outworkers' premises inspected	114
Fresh air inlets provided.....	2
Houses, cement floors provided in cellars.....	—
" floors to living-rooms provided or repaired	79
" shooting or guttering repaired or renewed.....	85
" roofs repaired	101
" No. of rooms where dirty or loose paper has been removed and walls and ceilings repaired and dis-tempered	327
" walls made dry by insertion of damp course or other method.....	75
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Diseases.....	152
Inspection of houses on complaint or otherwise	402
" of work in progress	2392
Miscellaneous defects remedied	185
Outbuildings or Washhouses repaired or rebuilt	22
Overcrowding abated	16
Poultry or animals removed	2
Schools inspected	10
Sink or other wastepipes removed, disconnected or trapped	36
Sinks, new channels provided or repaired	14
Slaughterhouse inspections.....	860
Stairs repaired	19
Strainers provided to gullies	20
Tippers repaired, renewed or cleansed	2
W.C.'s, Walls and ceilings repaired	23
" additional, provided	6
" flushing apparatus provided or repaired	41
" new pans and traps provided	22
" structural defects remedied	31
Water supplies provided.....	27
Brickwork joints repaired	116
Grates renewed or repaired.....	11
Window frames repaired.....	65
Vermineous rooms cleansed	97
Window sashes hung so as to open full size and cords renewed	72
Yard pavement repaired or provided in connection with houses	23
Drains reconstructed	15
Stoneware gullies provided.....	21
Preliminary Notices served	219
Statutory Notices served.....	154

Schools.

The Public Elementary Schools or Departments in the Borough number 18 and during 1934, the school population was 5,273, which is slightly less than the figure for 1933.

As I have stated in previous reports, the newer schools in the Borough are of excellent type and thoroughly hygienic, and are, in fact, a close approach to the ideal of a sanatorium or open-air school. The older schools suffer from cramped surroundings and the limitations of buildings, which, though considered adequate in bye-gone days do not accord with modern ideas and requirements. Gradually, however, these older and less hygienic schools are being brought up-to-date or replaced. Thus, during 1934, the re-construction of St. Francis' R.C. School was completed, partly by modernising the old school building and partly by the provision of a new school. The difficulties of the somewhat cramped site have been overcome and the new school is a vast improvement. The new School in the North part of the town, which is to replace St. Paul's School, is to be completed and opened in 1935 and in time, I trust, there will be a further raising of the standard of the schools in the Borough, by the re-construction or replacement of the remaining unsatisfactory schools.

The water supply to all the schools in the Borough is taken from the mains of the Maidstone Waterworks Company and all the schools are connected with the town sewer system, with the exception of Willington School, where chemical closets are in use and the Caldicott Community School at Mote House, where there is a cess-pool.

The overcrowding in some of the public elementary schools which was mentioned in former years, is becoming less, though in some schools the accommodation has been strained to the utmost.

School closure was not necessary during 1934 and indeed has not been resorted to for some years. During the summer months there was some scarlet fever in the Borough, though the incidence was not so heavy as in 1933 and at the end of the year, the schools were severely affected by the prevalence of diphtheria, and when the year closed the outbreak was at its height. In such circumstances, I am sure that school closure is only an obstruction to the control of the epidemic. In fact, it is probable that the early cases of diphtheria in the town are traceable to a neighbouring village, where the school was closed with the result that the children visited the town, bringing infection with them. With the schools open, swabbing and following-up of contacts are more easily secured, and suspected cases are reported much more promptly.

There is still need of the development of a conscience among parents in the matter of keeping contacts from mixing with other children, for I am sure that the various teas and treats at Christmas played a large part in the spread of the disease.

I am glad to know that it is probable that the provision of the new Girls' Grammar School, for which I have pressed in my reports for the past three years, is likely to be an accomplished fact.

Housing.

In Maidstone there is considerable variation in the type of house found in the various parts of the town. The older parts of the Borough contains much property, built by our forefathers of sound material and honest craftsmanship, which require re-conditioning and improvement, while the newer parts of the town are made up of houses of modern type and construction. Some of the old property in the Borough has been found to be incapable of repair and this is being demolished.

In the early part of 1934, a public inquiry into the slum problem in Maidstone was held by the order of the Minister of Health. The exact reason for holding this enquiry remains obscure, for the fact which emerged at the finish is that the Local Authority was dealing with the question of slums in the Borough and in fact was in advance of other Authorities in measures taken to abolish slums in the town.

During 1934, 287 new houses have been erected in the Borough, all of which were erected by private enterprise.

There are still a number of cases of overcrowding, 27 such cases having been discovered during the year. Eleven cases of overcrowding were dealt with by being allotted Corporation houses, one overcrowded family was removed to another house, while in two cases overcrowding was abated by the removal of one or more of the occupants of the house. Overcrowding is, and will be, a recurrent problem in Maidstone for in Kent there is a shifting population of persons who in the summer are employed in fruiting or hopping, or who wander over the County in search of employment, and who, in the winter, come into the town and take any accommodation obtainable, which is generally inadequate and over-crowding is the result.

The following statistical table dealing with housing is set out, has been prepared in accordance with the instructions in Circular 1417, dated 26/10/34, of the Ministry of Health and is set out in the form required.

Housing Statistics.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	658
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	658
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-section (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	248
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	248
(3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	569

II.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	166
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 17, 18 AND 23 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1930.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	30
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	11
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	124
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	89
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 19 AND 21 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1930.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6

D.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 20 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1930.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

The dairies, cowsheds and milkshops in the Borough have been inspected regularly and are kept in a clean and sanitary condition. During the year 1934, 73 inspections were made and 51 samples of milk were taken. Samples are also taken of the milk supplied to the elementary schools, for bacteriological examinations.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The total number of slaughter-houses in the Borough is 16, of which 13 are registered and 4 are licensed. Regular visits are made to these slaughter-houses for inspection as to cleanliness, etc., and they are also visited very frequently when slaughtering is in progress, for the inspection of meat. The number of inspections in 1934 amounted to 860, but it is impossible with this large number of slaughter-houses, which are most often in use at the same time, and with only two inspectors, to insure that all the meat killed in the Borough shall be inspected. The need in Maidstone, as I have urged in previous reports, is for a public abattoir, where all carcases killed in the Borough are intended for food, could be inspected. During the year, there has been a very considerable quantity of food of various kinds found to be unfit for human consumption which has been surrendered and destroyed. This unfit food included the following:—

Tinned foods, etc.	46 tons, 16 cwt., 2 qrs., 24 lbs.
Fish	5 cwt., 3 qrs., 141 lbs.
44 hams	4 cwt., 1 qr., 18½ lbs.
Beef	1 cwt., 1 qr., 7 lbs.
10 pigs' heads.	
2 carcases of beef.	
5 pigs' plucks.	
101 lbs. lambs' livers.	

ADULTERATION Etc.

Samples of various articles as shown in the following list were taken and examined with the results as given below:—

Article.	Number.	Number Genuine.
Milk	51	49
Butter	2	2
Certified Milk	11	9
Margarine	2	2
Cream ¹	2	2
Egg Substitute	1	1
Pepper	2	2
Sardines	1	—
	—	—
	73	67
	—	—

PROSECUTIONS.

During the year two prosecutions were ordered by the Council in cases where samples of milk taken were found to be deficient in fat or cream or containing extraneous water. The first of these was a sample containing 5% of extraneous water and the case was dismissed, and the second was deficient in fat to the extent of 14% and a fine of £1. was imposed. Three prosecutions for neglect to abate nuisances were also ordered and the defendant was ordered to carry out the work at the three premises within 42 days.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The chemical examination of food samples is carried out by the Public Analyst, Mr. E. M. Hawkins, F.I.C., F.C.S., Canterbury, and the necessary bacteriological examinations are made at the County Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

During 1934, the general health of the inhabitants of the Borough was good, though there was a considerable amount of scarlet fever in the town during the summer and at the end of the year, there was a serious outbreak of diphtheria.

The scarlet fever did not show so heavy an incidence as in 1933, 72 cases being notified as against 133 in the previous year. The disease was of a mild type and the majority of the cases were children, 49 being between the ages of 5 and 15 years.

In the latter part of the year, Maidstone, in common with the rest of the country, was visited by a severe outbreak of diphtheria. The abnormally hot and dry summer which the country enjoyed last year may have been the reason for the increased incidence of diphtheria and it is noteworthy that prevalence of the disease in the rural areas outside, preceded the appearance of diphtheria in the Borough. At the end of 1934, the incidence of diphtheria was at its maximum in Maidstone and active measures of swabbing and following-up were in progress.

Thirty-eight cases were notified up to the end of the year, but it should be recorded that both the diphtheria and scarlet fever notifications are increased by cases from other parts of the County which come into the West Kent General and the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospitals and are transferred from these hospitals to

the Borough Isolation Hospital, causing both an increase in the incidence figures and a strain on the accommodation provided at the Sanatorium. There were four deaths from diphtheria and in this connection, I would again urge the desirability of a more prompt use of diphtheria anti-toxin. Supplies of anti-toxin are available for the use of medical practitioners in the Borough, at the Health Department in Tonbridge Road, at the Borough Isolation Hospital and at the Borough Police Station, Palace Avenue. The feeling among the doctors in the Borough appears to be that laboratory confirmation of the diagnosis should be obtained before giving the serum and then that it is just as quick to send the patient into hospital where anti-toxin will be given, but I again urge that it is neither necessary nor desirable to wait for the result of the swab before giving the anti-toxin, and that delay may mean increased risks for the patient and a severe handicap for the hospital, in the struggle to save a life. There was no out-break of non-notifiable disease requiring special mention, though some of the schools had low attendance for a time, owing to the prevalence of whooping-cough, mumps and measles. The catarrhal conditions described as "influenza" and "Epidemic catarrh" caused a certain amount of sickness, but happily there was no influenza such as was known in the epidemics of this disease.

In former reports, I have commented on the fact that the design of Isolation Hospital is such that full use cannot be made of the accommodation available. Taking the allowance of floor area at 144 square feet per bed, there is accommodation in the permanent buildings at the Sanatorium for 20 patients, with an additional 10 beds in the corrugated iron building. At present accommodation is only available for the treatment of cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria, and the fact that the beds are all in large wards complicates the nursing of the cases, while it is desirable that there should be provision for other infectious diseases, such as the enteric fevers, and erysipelas. The provision of a cubicle block and the adoption of the system of cubicle nursing, would allow greater use to be made of the beds now existing and provide hospital accommodation for a greater number of infectious conditions. The administrative buildings and the quarters for the nursing staff also need extension and re-arrangement, and fortunately there is ample space on the site, if it is decided to enlarge the hospital.

I have arranged that in all cases of absence or exclusion from school by reason of actual or suspected disease, a report is sent direct to the M.O.H. by the Head Teacher concerned. I am glad to say that practically all the Head Teachers have helped willingly in this way and these reports are of very great value in the investigation of cases and the discovery of possible contacts.

During 1934, no action was taken in the provision of artificial immunisation against infectious diseases, but with the help of the whole-time Assistant M.O.H., the use of the Schick test and artificial immunisation against diphtheria will be made available in the Borough, in 1935.

Infectious Diseases.

The notifications of infectious diseases made during the year were as follows :—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	72	63	2
Diphtheria	38	38	4
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	2	2	1
Puerperal Fever... ..	5	5	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	7	2
Pneumonia	34	15	24
Erysipelas... ..	29	11	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	—
Dysentery.....	4	4	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	—
Totals	195	149	35

DISINFECTION.

The arrangements for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and of infected articles or premises, were outlined in the report for 1932, and have continued to work satisfactorily. During 1934, disinfection of 192 rooms and of 2,809 articles was carried out.

EXAMINATION OF PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

This service is provided by the County Laboratory and is a great boon to the Borough and the districts around. I should like to record my appreciation of the help given at the Laboratory during the year, particularly in the examination of numbers of

swabs from diphtheria contacts. Details of the specimens examined at the Laboratory from the Borough area, are set out below.

Disease for which examination was made.	Results.		Total.
	Positive.	Negative.	
Diphtheria	41	225	266
Enteric Fever	—	12	12
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	44	268	312
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	3	9
Various	4	3	7
	95	511	606

CANCER.

The table of the deaths from malignant disease in Maidstone for the past six years is as follows :—

	number of deaths
1929	67
1930	53
1931	64
1932	70
1933	59
1934	69

From the above table, it will be noted that the deaths from malignant disease are fairly constant. No information is available as to the incidence of cancer at any particular age or in any particular occupation. A branch of the National Radium Centres has been established at the Kent West General Hospital and close co-operation between local hospitals and the special hospitals which are doing such encouraging research into the problems of malignant disease, gives hope of increased success in the campaign against cancer.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

During 1934 three cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified :—

Notified.	Cases.		Vision Unim- paired.	Vision Im- paired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
3	—	3	3	—	—	—

Diseases of, or injuries to, the eyes receive treatment in Maidstone at the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital, where the three cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified during the year, were admitted.

Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary during 1934 in regard to any employee in the milk trade, under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925, nor for the compulsory removal to hospital of tuberculous patients, under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1934.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	2
5	1	1	5	2	—	—	1	1
15	4	8	—	5	1	4	—	1
25	8	8	2	1	2	8	—	—
35	5	6	1	—	4	4	—	—
45	4	2	—	1	3	2	—	1
55	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals ...	26	26	10	11	11	18	3	6

The number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis which had been notified was 35. The number which had not been notified was 6.

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total number of Tuberculosis deaths was thus 15 to 1

Analysis of Cases of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	5	1	1	33	16	3	8	1	—	—	72
Diphtheria	—	—	1	2	4	13	13	5	—	—	—	—	38
Enteric Fever...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	—	7
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	4	2	3	7	6	8	3	34
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	4	3	16	1	29
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Dysentery.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	4
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals.....	4	1	7	3	8	51	31	15	31	14	26	4	195

Analysis of Deaths of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total.
Scarlet Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Enteric Fever...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	...	...	2
Pneumonia	1	3	1	...	..	..	...	1	2	3	4	9	24
Erysipelas
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Dysentery.....
Cerebro spinal Fever
Totals.....	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	6	4	9	35

TABLE II.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1934. NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.					Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes	...	...	...	...	8	3	1	2	14	4	5	1	-	24
{ Small-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Convulsions	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	4
{ Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
{ Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Enteritis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Gastritis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Rickets	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Injury at birth	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	5
{ Premature birth	...	...	...	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus...	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	7
{ Other Causes	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Nett Live Births in the year					{ Legitimate				...	...	...	606		
					{ Illegitimate				...	...	..	19		
Nett Deaths in the year					{ Legitimate				...	...	...	24		
					{ Illegitimate				...	...	...	—

TABLE III.

ANNUAL STATISTICS RELATING TO MATERNITY HOME FOR YEAR 1933.

(1) Name and address of Institution	Maternity Block, West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.
(2) Number of Maternity beds in the Institution (exclusive of isolation and labour beds).	2
(3) Number of Maternity cases admitted during the year	52
(4) Average duration of stay	14 days.
(5) Number of cases delivered by— (a) Midwives (b) Doctors	48 4
(6) Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	Medical Officer visits daily.
(7) Number of cases notified as— (a) Puerperal Fever (b) .. Pyrexia*	— 2
(8) Number of cases of Pemphigus Neonatorum.	Nil.
(9) Number of Infants not entirely breast-fed while in the Institution	4
(10) (a) Number of cases notified as Ophthalmia Neonatorum (b) Result of treatment in each case	Nil. —
(11) (a) Number of Maternal deaths (b) Causes of death in each case	Nil. —
(12) (a) Number of Infant Deaths— (i.) Stillborn (ii.) within 10 days of birth (b) Cause of death in each case, and results of post-mortem examination (if obtainable)	5 1 Congenital Heart.

* i.e. rise of temperature to 100.1° F. for 24 hours or its recurrence within that period.

TABLE IV.

Summary of Bacteriological Reports.
Cossington and Forstal (Mixed) Water Supply
(1 Sample).

	On Agar at 37.5° C.	On Gelatine at Room Temperature in 4 days.
Number of Organisms per c.c. capable of growth in 48 hours	—	Liquefying — Total ... 19

McConkey's Bile Salts Lactose Broth.

Number of Tests.	No Growth.	Acid.	Acid and Gas.
..... tubes 0.01 c.c. water	—	—	—
Ten ,, 0.1 c.c. ,,	10	0	0
Ten ,, 1.0 c.c. ,,	10	0	0
Four ,, 10.0 c.c. ,,	4	0	0
One ,, 50.0 c.c. ,,	0	1*	0

* Faint acid reaction.

OTHER TESTS.

B. Coli was absent from 100 c.c's of this water.

B. Enteritidis sporogenes —

Streptococci —

TABLE V.

Summary of Bacteriological Reports.**Boarley Water Supply.**

(1 Sample).

Number of Organisms per c.c. capable of growth in 48 hours... ..	On Agar at 37.5° C.	On Gelatine at Room Temperature in 4 days.	
	22	Liquefying —	Total . 182

McConkey's Bile Salts Lactose Broth.

Number of Tests.	No Growth.	Acid.	Acid and Gas.
..... tubes 0.01 c.c. water	—	—	—
Ten „ 0.1 c.c. „	10	0	0
Ten „ 1.0 c.c. „	10	0	0
Four „ 10.0 c.c. „	4	0	0
One „ 50.0 c.c. „	1	0	0

OTHER TESTS.

B. Coli was absent from 100 c.c's of this water.

B. Enteritidis sporogenes —

Streptococci —

TABLE VI.

Summary of Bacteriological Reports.**Ewell Water Supply.**

(2 Samples).

Number of Organisms per c.c. capable of growth in 48 hours... ..	On Agar at 37.5° C.	On Gelatine at Room Temperature in 4 days.	
	3	Liquefying 27	Total ... 504

McConkey's Bile Salts Glucose Broth.

Number of Tests.	No Growth.	Acid.	Acid and Gas.
..... tubes 0.01 c.c. water	—	—	—
Ten „ 0.1 c.c. „	10	0	0
Ten „ 1.0 c.c. „	10	0	0
Four „ 10.0 c.c. „	3	1	0
One „ 50.0 c.c. „	1	0	0

OTHER TESTS.

B. Coli was absent from 100 c.c.'s of this water.

B. Enteritidis sporogenes —

Streptococci —

TABLE VII.
Boarley Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Oxygen Absorbed.		Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.			1 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.	Nitric.	Nitrous.		
22.1.34.	0.00	0.00	24.2	1.65	0.011	0.019	0.39	0.00	15.6	0.03
19.2.34.	0.00	0.00	21.3	1.60	0.004	0.009	0.43	0.00	14.8	0.01
19.3.34.	0.00	0.00	22.4	1.55	0.010	0.012	0.40	0.00	15.7	0.007
16.4.34.	0.00	0.00	24.0	1.15	0.010	0.015	0.35	0.00	16.8	0.00
14.5.44.	0.00	0.00	24.4	1.40	0.003	0.004	0.42	0.00	18.0	0.004
11.6.34.	0.00	0.00	24.2	1.50	0.0007	0.001	0.30	0.00	17.9	0.00
7.7.34.	0.00	0.00	25.4	1.15	0.002	0.003	0.46	0.00	17.9	0.00
3.8.34.	0.00	0.00	24.4	1.44	0.0007	0.001	0.44	0.00	17.4	0.00
31.8.34.	0.00	0.00	24.0	1.40	0.0014	0.004	0.35	0.00	16.5	0.00
1.10.34.	0.00	0.00	24.5	1.40	0.0007	0.002	0.28	0.00	17.1	0.00
24.11.34.	0.00	0.00	24.1	1.40	0.003	0.005	0.40	0.00	16.8	0.00
21.12.34.	0.00	0.00	23.6	1.50	0.002	0.010	0.50	0.00	17.4	0.00
Mean results for 1934.	0.00	0.00	24.1	1.48	0.004	0.007	0.39	0.00	16.8	0.004

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE VIII.
Cossington Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Oxygen Absorbed.		Nitrogen.		Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.			1 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.	Nitric.	Nitrous.		
22.1.34.	0.00	0.00	22.6	1.40	0.015	0.025	0.14	0.00	15.2	0.05
19.2.34.	0.00	0.00	21.2	1.40	0.006	0.008	0.14	0.00	14.2	0.007
19.3.34.	0.00	0.00	20.3	1.30	0.008	0.010	0.15	0.00	14.8	0.001
16.4.34.	0.00	0.00	21.3	1.25	0.012	0.013	0.17	0.00	16.2	0.00
14.5.34.	0.00	0.00	21.4	1.20	0.002	0.005	0.16	0.00	16.0	0.00
11.6.34.	0.00	0.00	21.5	1.15	0.0007	0.004	0.12	0.00	17.1	0.01
7.7.34.	0.00	0.00	22.6	1.15	0.003	0.005	0.12	0.00	17.6	0.00
3.8.34.	0.00	0.00	20.8	1.15	0.003	0.004	0.12	0.00	17.4	0.00
31.8.34.	0.00	0.00	20.7	1.15	0.0007	0.0049	0.11	0.00	16.1	0.00
1.10.34.	0.00	0.00	21.4	1.23	0.0007	0.002	0.11	0.00	17.4	0.00
24.11.34.	0.00	0.00	20.9	1.20	0.006	0.007	0.14	0.00	16.8	0.00
21.12.34.	0.00	0.00	20.8	1.20	0.004	0.006	0.11	0.00	17.6	0.00
Mean results for 1934.	0.00	0.00	21.3	1.23	0.005	0.008	0.13	0.00	16.4	0.006

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE IX.
Forstal Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Oxygen Absorbed.		Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.			4 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.	Nitric.	Nitrous.		
22.1.34.	0.00	0.00	39.8	2.60	0.011	0.021	0.27	0.00	22.0	0.02
19.2.34.	0.00	0.00	37.9	2.60	0.006	0.010	0.23	0.00	21.1	0.07
19.3.34.	0.00	0.00	37.1	2.60	0.008	0.014	0.28	0.00	21.9	0.01
16.4.34.	0.00	0.00	37.0	2.45	0.011	0.014	0.28	0.00	23.8	0.00
14.5.34.	0.00	0.00	37.2	2.40	0.003	0.006	0.23	0.00	25.5	0.00
11.6.34.	0.00	0.00	37.1	2.10	0.0007	0.004	0.30	0.00	24.6	0.01
7.7.34.	0.00	0.00	37.2	2.30	0.003	0.005	0.22	0.00	26.6	0.00
3.8.34.	0.00	0.00	36.9	2.40	0.0007	0.005	0.23	0.00	24.1	0.00
31.8.34.	0.00	0.00	36.9	2.30	0.0014	0.006	0.32	0.00	23.3	0.00
1.10.34.	0.00	0.00	37.4	2.34	0.0014	0.002	0.16	0.00	25.4	0.00
24.11.34.	0.00	0.00	37.5	2.50	0.003	0.005	0.24	0.00	23.0	0.00
21.12.34.	0.00	0.00	36.5	2.50	0.004	0.006	0.16	0.00	25.2	0.00
Mean results for 1934.	0.00	0.00	37.4	2.45	0.004	0.008	0.24	0.00	24.8	0.01

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE X.
Ewell Water Supply.

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Oxygen Absorbed.		Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.			4 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.	Nitric.	Nitrous.		
22.1.34.	0.00	0.00	28.4	2.25	0.014	0.021	0.41	0.00	17.2	0.01
19.2.34.	0.00	0.00	30.2	2.20	0.003	0.009	0.33	0.00	17.6	0.00
19.3.34.	0.00	0.00	27.2	2.15	0.008	0.010	0.46	0.00	18.2	0.01
16.4.34.	0.00	0.00	28.2	2.05	0.010	0.011	0.49	0.00	18.5	0.00
14.5.34.	0.00	0.00	28.7	2.05	0.0007	0.003	0.44	0.00	18.0	0.004
11.6.34.	0.00	0.00	28.8	2.25	0.001	0.002	0.42	0.00	17.9	0.02
7.7.34.	0.00	0.00	28.8	2.15	0.001	0.005	0.35	0.00	18.8	0.00
3.8.34.	0.00	0.00	29.7	2.10	0.002	0.001	0.41	0.00	19.3	0.00
31.8.34.	0.00	0.00	28.4	2.00	0.006	0.011	0.51	0.00	17.4	0.00
1.10.34.	0.00	0.00	28.7	2.00	0.0007	0.0014	0.56	0.00	17.6	0.00
24.11.34.	0.00	0.00	28.8	2.00	0.006	0.007	0.40	0.00	18.5	0.00
21.12.34.	0.00	0.00	32.5	2.00	0.004	0.008	0.50	0.01	17.9	0.00
Mean results for 1934.	0.00	0.00	29.0	2.10	0.005	0.008	0.44	0.00	18.1	0.004

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE XI.

Vital Statistics for 1934 and previous years.

	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	Averages for 10 years	1934
Death-Rate ..	10·4	9·5	11·2	12·3	10·6	12·6	11·7	11·2	12·2	11·5	11·3	10·7
Birth-Rate ...	15·9	15·9	15·7	15·1	15·9	15·9	16·1	15·2	14·8	13·7	15·4	13·8
Infant Mortality Rate	52	62	51	39	40	50	58	47	51	38	48	31
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	·92	·68	·82	·74	·59	·81	·96	·76	·63	·96	·79	·70
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	·15	·15	·19	·25	·17	·20	·25	·17	·21	·09	·18	·20
Diphtheria ...	·08	·03	—	·02	·02	·07	—	·07	·07	·05	·04	·09
Scarlet Fever ...	·03	·03	—	·05	·07	—	—	—	—	·02	·02	·04

TABLE XII.

**Birth-Rates, Death-Rates and Analysis of Mortality
in the year 1934.**

(The rates of England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1934, but those for London and the Towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1933. The mortality rates for England and Wales refer to the whole population, but for London, Maidstone and the towns to civilians only).

	Rate per 1,000 population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population.										Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All causes.	Typhoid & Para-typhoid Fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhea and Enteritis (under two years)	Total deaths under one year	
England and Wales	14.8	0.62	11.8	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.02	0.05	0.10	0.14	0.54	5.5	59	
121 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14.7	0.66	11.8	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.06	0.11	0.12	0.47	7.4	63	
126 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	15.0	0.67	11.3	0.00	—	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.09	0.14	0.42	3.6	53	
London	13.2	0.50	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.02	0.07	0.11	0.12	0.56	12.6	67	
Maidstone	13.8	0.53	10.7	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.09	0.11	0.41	1.6	38	

The maternal mortality rates are as follows:—

maternal mortality rates are as follows:—				Puerperal Sepsis.	Others.	Total.
per 1,000	f	England and Wales	...	2.03	2.57	4.60
Live Births.	(	Maidstone ... ..	...	3.20	3.20	6.40
per 1,000	f	England and Wales	...	1.95	2.46	4.41
Total Births.	(	Maidstone ... ..	...	3.06	3.06	6.11

TABLE XIII.

**List of Rooms and Articles Disinfected
during 1934.**

Month.	Blankets.	Sheets.	Counterpanes.	Mattresses.	Pillows.	Bolsters.	Curtains.	Bed-chair Cushions.	Beds.	Miscellaneous.	Totals.	Rooms.
January ...	21	21	7	28	16	8	24	3	5	66	199	13
February ...	28	26	10	24	15	11	18	3	6	69	210	13
March ...	32	29	11	18	19	14	24	9	5	92	253	18
April ...	26	20	8	12	23	9	27	—	2	63	190	13
May ...	34	35	12	17	21	13	34	—	6	85	257	16
June ...	14	11	6	6	6	4	12	—	3	20	82	5
July ...	31	37	11	50	26	12	36	—	6	91	300	21
August ...	39	41	11	24	34	15	38	3	11	103	319	22
September	23	20	8	10	16	5	15	—	5	44	146	8
October ...	45	44	14	22	26	13	45	3	14	116	342	26
November...	26	17	8	13	18	10	22	3	9	55	181	13
December...	46	37	14	23	31	20	42	6	11	100	330	24
Totals ...	365	338	120	247	251	134	337	30	83	904	2809	192

METEOROLOGY.

The detail of meteorological observations is set forth in Table XIV.

The mean reading of the barometer for the year is 29·71, the highest monthly mean being for May 30·46, and the lowest for March 29·19.

The hottest month was July, giving a mean of the maximum readings of the thermometer in the shade of 77°, and the mean of the minimum readings of 54°, while the coldest month was February, with a mean of the maximum readings of 42° and a mean of the minimum readings of 28°.

The prevailing winds were S.W., there being 113 days on which the wind was in this quarter.

The total rain-fall for the year was 24·51 inches, the heaviest amount falling in December, viz., 5·38 inches, while during February the amount registered was only ·18 inches, this being the driest month of the year.

There were 163 days in the year on which ·01 of an inch or more rain fell.

TABLE XIV.

RECORD OF METEOROLOGY 1934, RELATIVE PROPORTION OF WIND.
(Taken Daily at 9 a.m.)

MONTH.	RELATIVE PROPORTION OF WIND.							
	N.	N.E.	N.W.	S.	S.E.	S.W.	E.	W.
January ...	3	1	3	4	3	9	—	8
February ...	7	3	7	—	6	1	—	1
March ...	2	2	3	3	7	12	1	1
April ...	3	6	3	3	—	13	—	2
May ...	2	4	7	2	5	6	2	3
June ...	7	1	2	4	4	7	1	4
July ...	2	1	3	5	5	7	4	4
August ...	5	1	2	4	3	15	—	1
September ...	1	1	—	11	9	6	1	1
October ...	1	—	3	7	1	16	—	3
November ...	—	1	4	2	9	8	3	3
December ...	—	1	—	10	8	10	—	2
Totals ...	33	22	37	55	60	113	12	33

MONTH.	Average Barometer.	Average Thermo- meter (Max.).	Average Thermo- meter (Min.).	RAINFALL.	No. OF DAYS ON WHICH '01 FELL.
January ...	29.72	42	31	2.32	17
February ...	30.27	42	28	0.18	8
March ...	29.19	47	32	2.84	17
April ...	29.56	55	40	2.31	19
May ...	30.46	64	44	0.69	6
June ...	29.73	71	51	1.37	7
July ...	29.65	77	54	1.66	9
August ...	29.53	70	50	1.96	14
September ...	29.72	68	47	1.47	8
October ...	29.81	57	43	1.94	15
November ...	29.50	46	37	2.39	17
December ...	29.35	49	11	5.38	26
Averages & Totals for the Year	29.71	57	42	24.51	163

BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Population (estimated 1934)	...	...	...	...	46,320
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	8,172
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1934) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	11,667
Average Number of Persons per House (1921)	...	...	...	...	4·6
Average Number of Persons per House (1934)	..	...	...	...	4·0
Area	...	...	...	...	5,972 acres
Density	...	...	...	...	7·8 persons per acre
Annual Birth Rate	...	...	per 1,000 population	...	13·8
Annual Death Rate	...	...	„	„	10·7
Phthisis Death Rate	...	...	„	„	·70
Other Tuberculous Diseases Death Rate	„	„	„	„	·20
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	38·4
Live Births	...	{ Males, 303 Females, 322 }	...	...	625
Deaths	...	{ Males, 255 Females, 275 }	...	...	530
Excess of Births over Deaths	...	..	...	...	95

Elevation.—The population reside at a mean elevation of 70 feet above sea level, ranging from 20 to 250 feet.

